



Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee

E. Jay Carlson Community Development Building, 18400 Murdock Circle,
BCS Large Conference Room, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>District:</u>
Coty Keller, Chair	District 4
Don McCormick, Vice-Chair	District 2
Thomas Brock.....	District 3
Patrick Jurek.....	District 1
Wendy Lang.....	District 5
Jeff Anlauf.....	Member-at-Large
Ed Hill.....	Member-at-Large

MINUTES

February 6, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Keller called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Keller asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call / Determination of a Quorum

Upon Secretary Scott calling the roll it was determined a quorum was present.

4. Approval of Minutes

- Approve the Minutes from January 2, 2020

Mr. McCormick moved approval of the January 2, 2020 BSAC minutes, second by **Mr. Jurek**; approved unanimously.

5. Changes to the Agenda

None offered.

6. Citizen Input on Agenda Items

Cory Anderson, FWC, asked for updates from the One Charlotte One Water Assembly.

7. New Business

None offered.

8. Old Business:

- **Claire Jubb, Community Development Director**
- a. **Regional Resiliency Task Force Update**

Ms. Jubb stated that the Regional Resiliency Task Force had met with the State's Chief Resiliency Officer, a few weeks ago. Our Steering Committee was able to meet with her regarding what we are trying to do as a Steering Committee to formulate the Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact. We received valuable information as to how the State is viewing the development of regional compacts to address climate change and resiliency.

We have workshopped the compact around most of the jurisdictions. The next step is the adoption of a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU). We are working to get a consensus from the other jurisdictions. The MOU talks about regional collaboration, climate action report, standardized climate and sea level rise projections across the region. At the moment, the MOU is not looking for financial contribution. We are working closely with FGCU, and FGCU is helping with that.

Chair Keller asked if there was a timeframe forecasted for the Memorandum of Understanding; with **Ms. Jubb** explaining they were hoping by the end of Spring.

Mr. McCormick added he had attended a Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council Meeting in Fort Myers and there was a presentation on a Regional Compact for Climate Change by Dr. Mike Savarese. Mr. McCormick was told there are no plans for financial participation by the various entities and no plans for the eventual breakup of the organization when disagreements occur. Mr. McCormick explained he represents the Governor's Appointment on the Board of the SWFRPC.

Chair Keller asked about the Planning Council with **Ms. Jubb** explaining there are Regional Planning Council's across the state that operate slightly differently. In some regions the Regional Planning Council is taking the lead on a Climate or Resiliency Compact. There are disagreements between the jurisdictions in this area and the Regional Planning Council; which is why this compact has been formed outside of the Regional Planning Council.

Mr. McCormick explained that the SWFRPC is from Sarasota, thru Collier and that Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee and Collier Counties have voted to withdraw from it.

Mr. Brock asked what we are doing when we use the term climate change; with **Ms. Jubb** explaining that one of the reasons the Southwest Florida Compact has moved to a resiliency format rather than a climate change format is because there are many different aspects of climate change and we need to be resilient to those aspects and impacts of climate change whether that be increased storms, increased rainfall, sea level rise, salt water intrusion, fires, drought; and all those types of things. The aim is to regionally have an approach to be resilient to those things; including the economic impacts of those changes and extremes in the weather and everything that is going on. It's a huge topic, there is not one quick solution but if we can address those from a regional aspect and; for example, if we are having more brush fires in the eastern section of the County and how can we be more resilient to those and how can we educate and do outreach to the citizens and farmers. In terms of mitigation, that gets into another aspect; in terms of how you locally reduce carbon and as a region we felt it was important to focus on the resiliency side. Yes, addressing mitigation thru what ever actions we can take but that in itself is a huge thing to do.

9. Water Quality

One Charlotte One Water Assembly

Mr. Brock stated the he felt the assembly overall was a great thing but was disappointed in the speakers. Mr.

Brock was looking for someone with expertise how we as a group can do better in areas such as water testing. **Ms. Jubb** explained that the Task Force tried to give an introduction to water quality. Moving forward, there may be sub working group(s) that are more into the more technical side, getting into those multiple aspects.

Ms. Lang explained that no one is consistently doing testing from the watersheds down. With the forming of the Coastal and Heartland National Estuary Partnership, hopefully we can have consistency from somewhere, as this is constantly brought up.

Ms. Jubb explained that there is a lot of data out there and how do we get that information out to the general public in a way that is meaningful and accessible; something people can use when they are making business decisions. How do we plan our projects around the data and know what's out there? We received a lot of information out of the assembly we need to still coordinate and pull together. The Natural Estuary Program may be the place for that resource to sit because they are on a watershed basis and have pulled in all of those jurisdictions that are north and upriver from us.

Mr. Anlauf explained the assembly format stating his group came up with over 100 suggestions for the County to look at; one suggestion was a Water Czar for water quality. The second suggestion was a Regional Czar to look over all the different County's and areas that flow into the estuary. Mr. Anlauf stated it was a very good conference.

Chair Keller stated that everyone who he spoke with came away from the assembly energized, full of new information, having met people they hadn't met before. Groups had many different people from different disciplines. It became clear from his group that you have to use the State Water Quality Standards at least as a minimum and you have to look at the fish, seagrass, and other things. The idea of education and outreach started out with the Superintendent of Schools and ended with Mr. Savarese saying you need education from K to Gray. What happened to our new resident education program? Not only do the decision makers need to be educated but the community needs to be educated because those people will have their lifestyles impacted if this isn't straightened out. Mr. Savarese stated at the assembly that water quality and climate change are so linked that you can't stop them.

Mr. Anderson, FWC, stated his assembly group had good input, and they found that it is probably a good idea have a County position to take this scientific data that is abundant, put it together and communicate it to people and see where we fall. Try to meet the State Water Quality Standards at a minimum but other jurisdiction have gone over and above by setting more stringent water quality standards. This is something that can be done thru the State with Reasonable Assurance Agreements. Education was high on the list for everyone, residents and policy makers. Jennifer Hecker was good at pointing out that the County does not have to do this on their own as there are lots of partners out there. We just want to make sure everyone is plugged in and working collaboratively on this topic.

Mr. Blewett, FWC, stated he wanted to attend the assembly but explained that he was a speaker at his section groups annual meeting. Our concern is with the changes we have seen since 1989. In 2012 we started to see these massive algae blooms in the harbor. I see the need for drastic changes, rather quickly due to scientific evidence showing the escalation. We should keep in mind that Tampa Bay has been through this and there is a framework. The Tampa Bay National Estuary Program was part of a large community project with buy in from everyone. We need to tap into that framework and try to model something similar because it worked.

Ms. Jubb explained that there is a huge amount of data to go through, but education and outreach bubbled to the top. Ms. Jubb's assembly group discussion included a program called TAPP (Think About Personal Pollution),

the City of Tallahassee put together. The sheer volume of data out there bubbled to the top as something we need to get a handle on regionally and regionalism was a key focus in her group. The group expressed that this isn't just a Charlotte County problem but a regional problem that we need to deal with regionally.

Ms. Jubb will be putting together a high-level summary of the One Charlotte One Water Assembly for the Board of County Commissioners. We will be collating all the information. The dot exercise information can be used to get a priority list for what we should be doing; and we can take that to the Board to formulate a workplan for how we should move forward. Many people expressed their desire to be involved moving forward. We see the Assembly as a great success and something we would want to replicate moving forward.

Chair Keller asked for a timeline when the summary will be released; with Ms. Jubb stating hopefully within the next couple of weeks. We have tentatively been scheduled for the March BCC Workshop to provide an update to the BCC on the Assembly and where we are in terms of the water quality strategy in general.

Ms. Scudera stated she was impressed with the groups and their different interests and opinions.

Mr. Jurek asked if the artificial reefs being placed in the canals are working in Collier and Lee Counties to clean up the water; with **Mr. Anderson** explaining, they are problematic because they are made of styrofoam and plastic. We are having discussion with regulatory agencies as to how we want to do this. We would like to go in a direction that does not put more plastic and styrofoam in our waters. They seem to be flimsy and might become marine debris and navigational hazards if they fall apart and break free.

Mr. Jurek asked about treated pilings and if there was a way to pull out trash further out in the gulf.

Mr. Anderson stated that a lot of the drinking comes from the Peace and Shell Watersheds coming into the harbor from the north instead of in from the gulf. There are microplastics in the harbor, and if they will get into the in fish, shellfish and people. The question is, what the solution is.

Mr. Brock added that the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and a group in the Tampa Bay area worked together to look at tributaries; since the late 1990's retention areas with an overflow are required for new construction. Can this group tap into SWFWMD and see what they are doing, what the laws are and get information from them as to how they might help?

Chair Keller added that the SWIM Program is updating the Charlotte Harbor SWIM Plan that was originally published in 1993 and updated in 2000. Chair Keller offered to contact SWFWMD to ask if they might make a presentation to the BSAC on the SWIM Program.

SWIM contacts Roseanne Garcia and Chris Anastasiou were suggested.

Chair Keller asked if the BSAC could get updates for West Port's stormwater and wastewater; with Ms. Jubb suggesting Ms. Vernon, Public Works and Craig Rudy, Utilities Director might be able to provide this information.

- **Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc.**
 - a. **Manasota Key Beach Renourishment Project**
 - b. **South Beach Fill Renourishment**
 - c. **Stump Pass Project**

Mr. Poff was unable to attend but provided an update report.

- **Matt Logan, Public Works**
 - **Engineering Projects Update Report**
 - **Manchester Waterway west end access proposal**

Mr. Logan was unable to attend but provided an update report.

Mr. Anlauf asked if Commissioner Truex had contacted Mr. Inglehart; with Ms. Whidden saying she believed that was suggested but did not believe he had.

Discussion ensued as to the Manchester Waterway west end access proposal and previous conversations with Mr. Inglehart about the political climate in the cabinet being such that this would not be brought up until after the election.

- **Parks and Natural Resources**
 - **Parks and Natural Resources Update**

Ms. Derheimer stated they are working on the upcoming shorebird seabird nesting season.

- Winter Shorebird Surveys will begin February 7 thru February 13, 2020.
- Mitigation areas on Palm Island as required for the Stump Pass Renourishment Project are being prepared.
- Problems with pre-growth vegetation have been noticed. The birds like more of an open sandy area, especially Least Terns.
- Prior to nesting season, staff tries to remove vegetation.
- The mitigation area is plus or minus four (4) acres in front of the resort on Palm Island.
- There is a trapper looking to see what animals are there, to help with predation.
- Tilling is being done for a flat fluffy surface.

Chair Keller asked if the County has a way to communicate what is happening with the paper. Ms. Scudera stated that the Palm Island mitigation is done annually. Last year the County Public Information Office took photos and those were posted on the County Facebook page for the public to see.

Mr. Blewett asked if the shorebirds do best in an open habitat; with Ms. Derheimer explaining that Least Terns do. Wilson Clovers like clumps of vegetation and Snowy Clovers like it in between with open sandy patches with areas of vegetation around it.

Ms. Scudera stated that staff has researched to find an environmentally friendly sturdy line, used to keep the public out of designated areas, as related to degradation and microplastics.

Ms. Derheimer stated they will focus on predation this year, purchasing wildlife cameras for observation.

- **Derelict Vessel Update Report**

Ms. Scudera provided the Derelict Vessel Update Report:

- There are four vessels contracted for removal.
- Two vessels have been relocated by the owner.
- One vessel is considered at risk and the owner has been ticketed.
- Seven Vessels have been cited by Law Enforcement.
- Eight open cases are in the State process of finding the owners.

Ms. Scudera stated that the Manasota Key Beach Renourishment Project will be utilizing a portion of Chadwick

and our northern access points for staging; to store pipeline and gain access. The Army Corp permit is in hand. The contractor has not mobilized yet. A Press Release was sent stating that beginning February 1st you may start to see some activity specifically related to the staging, pipeline placement and things of that nature within those areas of Chadwick and Englewood Beach.

10. Correspondence and Communications

Chair Keller stated that copies of Resolution 2018-129 and Resolution 2001-055 were provided for BSAC members to review as to what their duties, powers and functions are.

11. Public Comments

A resident of Palm Island Resort thanked everyone for all they are doing.

12. Comments by Administrative Staff or Consultants

None offered.

13. Member Comments

Chair Keller advised the BSAC that Secretary Scott will retire the end of March 2020.

Mr. Anlauf stated there will be a retirement party for Ray Sandrock, County Administrator on March 24, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Realtor's Building on Loveland. Invitations will be sent shortly.

14. Next Meeting

- The next Regular Meeting of the Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee will be **Thursday, March 5, 2020** at 9:00 a.m. in the large conference room of Building Construction Services unless otherwise announced.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Minutes Approved March 5, 2020



Coty Keller, Chair